

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were noted as pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 7 have been withdrawn. Claims 6 and 8-17 were acted upon in the aforesaid Office Action. Claim 8 has been canceled and no new claim has been added, leaving claims 6 and 9-17 for further consideration.

Claims 6 and 9-13 stand rejected, under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting, over U.S. Patent No. 6,610,064. A terminal disclaimer is enclosed herewith and is believed to overcome the rejection based on double patenting.

Claims 6, 9-11 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Whelan.

Claim 6 has been amended to limit the flexible member (55) to having a first closed loop at a first end (60) thereof, and a second closed loop at a second end (65) thereof. This feature does not appear to be shown in, or suggested by, Whelan. Accordingly, it appears that claim 6 should be deemed not anticipated, nor suggested, by Whelan. Accordingly, allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 stands withdrawn and claim 8 has been canceled, as noted above.

Claims 9-17 depend directly or ultimately from claim 6 and would appear to be allowable, at least through dependency.

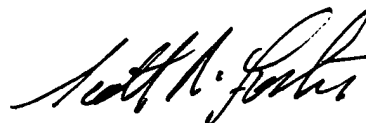
In summary, allowance of claims 6 and 9-17 appears to be in order and is most respectfully requested.

A new Abstract is enclosed herewith to substitute for the originally submitted Abstract which was held not commensurate with the scope of the claims.

Amendments to the specification have been entered to correct minor deficiencies.

In the event that any additional fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Foster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Foster" clearly distinguishable.

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